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INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE ACQUISITION OF FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS

MINUTES

Meeting of 26 October 1943

PRESENT:

Office of Strategic Services  
Treasury Department  
Department of Agriculture  
Navy Department  
Office of Economic Warfare  
Office of War Information  
Library of Congress  
War Department  
State Department  
Interdepartmental Committee  
Executive Secretary

Mr. Read  
Mr. Southworth  
Mr. Shaw  
Commander Riheldaffer  
Mr. Chaput  
Mr. Krould  
Mr. Clapp  
Major Hale  
Mr. Spaulding  
Miss Gunn  
Ensign Kilgour

Ensign Kilgour presided.

The Minutes of the Meeting of 12 October 1943 were approved  
as corrected.

The chair reported that the Committee's offices had been  
moved and are now all in the Washington Auditorium. Miss Reynolds'  
telephone numbers have remained 2225 and 2254, but the chair's phone  
number had been changed to 532. Mail should still be sent to the  
25th and E Street address.

The chair stated that it had been impossible to obtain Lt. Harry  
Stritman for duty with the Committee because regulations forbid the  
transfer of an officer who has been alerted for overseas duty.

Reporting on efforts to get a commission for Corporal Clift,  
the chair said that General Donovan had been approached on this  
problem and that it was possible that the General might be able to

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get Corporal Clift commissioned. Since it is probable that Ensign Kilgour will be detached for other duty, obtaining a commission for Corporal Clift is most imperative.

The chair reminded the Members that the existence of the Committee's Outpost in Stockholm is confidential.

Reporting on the Committee's activities in the Far East the chair told the Committee that expenditures were rising rapidly due to a most unfavorable exchange rate and inflation. During September each dollar exchanged in China obtained a purchasing power of eleven cents only; the purchasing power of each dollar was further reduced by the inflation. These factors plus expanding Committee activities will greatly increase expenditures in the Far East.

Miss Jones, the librarian at the Bureau of Standards, had requested that original scientific materials be deposited in the Bureau of Standards Library. After some discussion the Committee decided that the Bureau of Standards Library should be made custodian of scientific publications requested by Miss Jones.

The chair reported that it would be possible to supply copies of abstracts requested by one agency to other agencies if the members would inform Corporal Clift of the Subjects from the Classification Scheme for which they would like a copy of all abstracts made.

The chair reported that Mr. Kates had left by air for Chungking.

One of the OSS Outposts in the Mediterranean area had requested that several European newspapers be sent to the Outpost from the

Committee's Outpost in Lisbon after the papers had been filmed, and the chair inquired as to what the policy should be for such an arrangement. The Committee decided that in this case the newspapers should be sent to the OSS Outpost providing that there were no titles desired for a permanent file in the Library of Congress. In general the Committee agreed that the Outposts should accept the responsibility of making material available to Field Representatives of other agencies.

The chair read a letter from Mr. Clapp of the Library of Congress in which Mr. Clapp said that the Library of Congress would deliver the Committee's originals on loan within the Washington Area and that the Library would be happy to act as custodian of the Committee's originals.

The chair had also received a list of eighty-eight periodicals and fifty-nine newspapers from the Library of Congress which represented the files which the Library wished to receive complete. The Committee was agreed that efforts should be made to claim missing issues of these titles.

The chair reported that three Balkan newspapers, Universul, Magyar Hírlap, and Nepszava, were now coming in regularly in the original and were going to OWI. The Representatives from MIS and OEW requested that some of these titles be routed to their agencies. The Committee instructed the chair to transmit another telegram to Istanbul to find out why the four Balkan papers requested in the original are not being received.

The chair pointed out that there would probably be Japanese publications in the possession of people returning from Japan on the Gripsholm. After some discussion the Committee requested the Representative from the State Department to transmit a telegram to a State Department official on the Gripsholm requesting him to borrow all Far Eastern publications that he could from the passengers with assurance that the publications would be returned to their owners as soon as the Committee had filmed them.